

PATENT

**B. AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[1]]4 wherein the automatically determining further comprises:

testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and  
determining a highest speed.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[1]]4 wherein the automatically determining further comprises:

setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;  
comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the minimum speed limit; and  
testing each of the plurality of proxy servers in response to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the minimum speed limit.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A method for selecting a proxy server, said method comprising:  
identifying a plurality of proxy servers; and  
automatically determining at least one of the proxy servers to use when accessing a  
network The method as described in claim 1, wherein the automatically determining further comprises includes:

receiving a destination address; and  
comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier.

Claim 5 (original) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

Claim 6 (original) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A method for selecting a proxy server, said method comprising:

Docket No. AUS000411US1

Page 3 of 14  
McBrearty, et. al. - 09/631,722

Atty Ref. No. IBM-0021

## PATENT

identifying a plurality of proxy servers; and  
automatically determining at least one of the proxy servers to use when accessing a  
network, wherein the automatically determining further comprises:  
    receiving a destination address; and  
    comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the  
    network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, and  
    The method as described in claim 4 wherein at least one of the network addresses  
includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one  
address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[1]]4 further comprising:  
    modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the  
proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[1]]4 wherein the identifying  
further comprises:  
    reading a proxy server identifier associated with each of the proxy servers.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[1]]4 wherein the identifying  
further comprises:  
    connecting to a second computer system using a network; and  
    receiving a plurality of proxy server identifiers from the second computer system.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[1]]4 further comprising:  
    determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;  
    setting a default proxy server address to the address of the fastest proxy server;  
    receiving a destination address from a user;  
    locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more  
network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;  
    selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response  
to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and  
    selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination  
address in the proxy table.

## PATENT

## Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim [[12]]15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and  
means for determining a highest speed.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim [[12]]15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;  
means for comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the minimum speed limit;  
and  
means for testing each of the plurality of proxy servers in response to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the minimum speed limit.

Claim 15 (currently amended) An information handling system comprising:  
one or more processors;  
a memory accessible by the processors;  
a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;  
a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;  
and  
a proxy selection tool, the proxy selection tool including:  
means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;  
means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;  
means for selecting one of the plurality of proxy server identifiers in response to the evaluating.

The information handling system as described in claim 12 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprisesincludes:

means for receiving a destination address; and  
means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier.

Claim 16 (original) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

## PATENT

means for returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

Claim 17 (original) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

Claim 18 (currently amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;

a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;

and

a proxy selection tool, the proxy selection tool including:

means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;

means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;

means for selecting one of the plurality of proxy server identifiers in response to the evaluating,

wherein the proxy selection tool further includes:

means for receiving a destination address; and

means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses,

each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, and

The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim [[12]]15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim [[12]]15

Docket No. AUS000411US1

Page 6 of 14  
McBrearty, et. al. - 09/631,722

Atty Ref. No. IBM-0021

## PATENT

wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

- means for determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;
- means for setting a default proxy server address to the address of the fastest proxy server;
- means for receiving a destination address from a user;
- means for locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;
- means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and
- means for selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination address in the proxy table.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (original) The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:

- means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and
- means for determining a highest speed.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:

- means for setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;
- means for comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the minimum speed limit; and
- means for testing each of the plurality of proxy servers in response to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the minimum speed limit.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A computer program product for selecting a proxy server, said computer program product comprising:

- means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;
- means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;
- means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding to one of the evaluated proxy servers.

The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein the means for

Docket No. AUS000411US1

Page 7 of 14  
McBrearty, et. al. - 09/631,722

Atty Ref. No. IBM-0021

## PATENT

evaluating further comprises includes:

means for receiving a destination address; and

means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier.

Claim 25 (original) The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising:

means for returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

Claim 26 (original) The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising:

means for returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A computer program product for selecting a proxy server, said computer program product comprising:

means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;

means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;

means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding to one of the evaluated proxy servers,

wherein the means for evaluating further includes:

means for receiving a destination address; and

means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses,

each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, and

The computer program product as described in claim 24 wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim [[21]]24 further comprising:

means for modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim [[21]]24

Docket No. AUS000411US1

Page 8 of 14  
McBrearty, et. al. - 09/631,722

Atty Ref. No. IBM-0021

## PATENT

further comprising:

- means for determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;
- means for setting a default proxy server address to the address of the fastest proxy server;
- means for receiving a destination address from a user;
- means for locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;
- means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and
- means for selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination address in the proxy table.

---

Docket No. AUS000411US1

Page 9 of 14  
McBrearty, et. al. - 09/631,722

Atty Ref. No. IBM-0021